A special Task Force set up by RBI was entrusted with studying the industry related problems in the State of Bihar and a sub-committee was formed to study operational problems of stepping up credit flow and to suggest measures to increase credit deposit ratio. The progress in implementation of the action point that emerged from the study shows that the banks have been making all efforts to improve the CD ratio in the State of Bihar. The additional liquidity with the banks has been made possible with the progressive reduction in the CRR and SLR. It may also be mentioned that the credit flow in the State also depends upon the factors such as availability of adequate infrastructure facilities, development of core sector projects, large and medium industries entrepreneurial initiatives, credit absorption capacity of the State, conducive atmosphere for investment and satisfactory recovery position of bank dues. The initiative in this regard also lies with the State Government to create a climate conducive to the enhancement of credit flow in the State.

Panel for wooing foreign investors

2723. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has set up new panel to woo foreign investors;

(b) if so, what are the main objects of this new panel;

(c) whether the main complaint from the foreign investors is the delay in finalization at the bureaucratic level; and

(d) if so, to what extent this new panel will help the foreign investors to invest more in India without any obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

In pursuance of Government's commitment to further facilitate foreign investment, Government has permitted, except for a small negative list, access to the automatic route for FDI.The automatic route means that foreign investors only need to inform the Reserve Bank of India within 30 days of bringing in their investment, and again within 30 days of issuing any shares.

(d) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts in Customs Department

2724. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-items captioned 'Key Customs Department Posts Vacant' which appeared in the Times of India' dated the 26th September, 2002;

(b) what is the factual position in this regard;

(c) the details of Director and above level officers who are continuously away on deputation for over 5, 7 and 9 years respectively, at present;

(d) the justification and level of approval in each case of deputation presently continuing beyond nine years; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to recall such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-items contained a report on the delay in posting of officers against the post of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi; 2 posts of Member in Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), the post of Director General (Audit) in CBEC and to the post of Chief of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau. Re-structuring of Central Board of Excise & Customs had resulted in an increase of 26 in the sanctioned strength of posts in the grade of Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise. The exercise to fill these posts was in process on the